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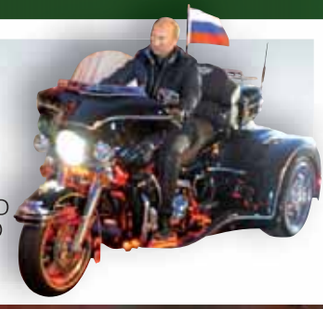
INTERNATIONAL MAN OF MYSTERY

PUTIN ON THE FRITZ? THE RUSSIAN LEADER'S ACTIONS HAVE SOME WONDERING IF HE'S LOST HIS MIND — BUT THERE COULD BE METHOD BEHIND THE SPECTACLE PAGE 4



Global warming could spiral 'out of control,' says UN panel

Will weather worsen? PAGE 5

Hundreds mourn school founder killed by Taliban

Roshan Thomas, who co-founded a series of schools in Kabul, draws crowd in North Vancouver PAGE 2

Jays battered in season opener

Star shortstop Jose Reyes gets injured after one turn at-bat as Toronto falls to the Rays 9-2 PAGE 14

EX-GROW-OP TORCHED?

A massive fire broke out at the site of a former grow-op in the Port Kells area of Surrey on Monday morning. Police have labelled the blaze suspicious and are investigating it as a possible arson. Story, page 3. SHANE MACKICHAN/FOR METRO

Masked, armed man attempted 2 carjackings: Cops

Grand theft auto?

No serious injuries reported after suspect ran onto the highway and allegedly tried to pull driver from car

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

A masked man jumped atop the hood of an SUV in an attempt to flee after he tried to jack two cars and allegedly stole a car battery from an East Vancouver Canadian Tire on Sunday evening, police said.

The unusual chain of events started out with a seemingly normal transaction at the store near Grandview Highway and Bentall Street around 4:30 p.m., according to Vancouver police.

The man was at the checkout counter about to purchase the battery when he walked away and returned moments later with a balaclava covering his face. He then walked out of the store without paying, battery in hand, police said.

A security guard tried to stop him in the parking lot, but the man pulled out an object believed to be a knife and took a swing at the guard with the battery, police said.

Still wearing his balaclava, the man ran onto the westbound highway lane and tried to car-jack a hatchback Suzuki stopped at a red light.

He opened the driver's door and tried to pull the driver from the car, but the woman was held in place by her seatbelt. She hit the gas pedal, dragging the man a short distance before he fell off and she collided with a taxi, causing the airbags to deploy in both vehicles. He then tried, but failed, to get into the taxi through a smashed window.

When that didn't work, police said, he jumped on the hood of an SUV stopped in traffic and yelled, "Drive away!"

An off-duty police officer at the scene managed to convince the man to get off the SUV. The officer held onto the man until uniformed officers arrived to arrest him.

Vancouver resident Giovanni Nehemiah Isaias Campbell, 36, has been charged with robbery, two counts of assault with a weapon, disguising his face with intent to commit an offence, theft under $5,000 and obstructing a police officer.

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NEWS

Transit. Campaign launched to promote bus driver safety

A longtime bus operator continues to suffer from anxiety two years after a passenger threatened to kill her.

Stacy Crandlemire recalled the incident at a press conference Monday focused on bus driver assaults and prevention.

"He said that he was going to cut me up into tiny little pieces and nobody was ever going to find me," she recalled. "I froze. I looked at him and thought, 'This is it, I'm going to die.'"

Metro Vancouver Transit Police launched Don't Touch the Operator, a public awareness campaign aimed at reducing harassment of bus operators.

The campaign includes videos and bus stickers encouraging passengers to call or text transit police if harassment occurs.

"It took me months to get out of my bus at New West station," Crandlemire said. "To this day, if I see anyone who looks like him, I have an anxiety attack." The passenger was never caught, to Crandlemire's knowledge.

Unifor Local 111 and Coastal Mountain Bus Company (CMBC) said they are exploring the idea of introducing barriers on buses to protect drivers.

CMBC vice-president Stan Sierpina said the company also offers training for bus operators related to assaults.

KAYLA ISOMURA/FOR METRO

Roshan Thomas was honoured by friends, family and people touched by her work at the Jamatkhana in North Vancouver Monday. SAM SMITH/FOR METRO

Friends, family mourn loss of 'beautiful soul'

Dr. Roshan Thomas.
Teacher, humanitarian was killed by Taliban forces in Afghanistan

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Almost 2,000 people crammed the halls of North Vancouver's Jamatkhana to honour Dr. Roshan Thomas, a beloved teacher and humanitarian who was killed in Afghanistan by Taliban forces on March 21.

Conducted in the traditional Ismaili Muslim funeral style, friends, family and even those who only learned of her deeds packed the halls to pay their respects.

"We mourn the departure of a beautiful soul, among eight others, including Zeenab Kassam of Calgary, who was taken from us at the dawn of the Afghan new year in Kabul," the family said in a prepared statement. "We mourn those who plan and commit these atrocities, (who) have never known the beauty of our faith, Islam, or of any other faith in the path of God.

"We mourn the loss of a remarkable woman who was both a leader and a servant, a teacher and a student, a friend and a mother."

Thomas and her husband Rahim founded a series of schools called the Sparks Academy in Kabul, which focuses on early childhood development. Since 2003, her single school of 50 students has grown to six schools and nearly 900 students.

The Thomas family also currently has six Afghan children living in their home so they can get a Canadian education and return back to their home countries with their newfound knowledge.

Thomas was one of nine people slain by Taliban forces at the Serena Hotel in Kabul, where she was conducting interviews for Afghan youth looking to take part in her scholarship program.

"Roshan always believed that her life would be judged based not on what she achieved, but what she enabled others to achieve," her family said. "It was this ethic that drove her spirit of imaginative volunteerism in countries around the world, including Canada, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Tanzania, and Zambia. It is this spirit which will live in each one of us, as we strive to follow in her footsteps and to honour her life and legacy."

To learn about Thomas's programs, or to donate, visit www.sharethespark.com.

Construction. Burrard Bridge remains closed to buses due to lane width

Buses still aren't travelling over the Burrard Bridge even though the anchors that were popping tires were fixed last week.

The city, the contractor and TransLink have decided the lanes aren't wide enough for buses to safely use the bridge, city and TransLink spokespeople said Monday.

There was a test run Monday morning, but TransLink has decided to keep re-routing the buses.

TransLink does not know when buses will be allowed to cross the bridge again, spokeswoman Jiana Ling said.

Burrard Bridge construction METRO FILE

The bridge is down to three lanes during construction to replace the 81-year-old structure's bearings and expansion joints.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

City hall

Candidates hope city gets Greener

The lone Green Party representative at city hall hopes she'll have three teammates beside her in council chambers after November's municipal election.

Vancouver's Green Party announced Monday the names of the four candidates that will run under its banner in a bid to tip the power balance away from majority party, Vision Vancouver.

Coun. Adriane Carr will seek a second term. Joining her are Cleta Brown, Pete Fry and Tracey Moir.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Stanley Park. A matter of pride: Concrete kings of the jungle to be replaced

While there's no way to prevent a pair of miniature lion statues in Stanley Park from being vandalized again, a Vancouver Park Board spokeswoman said they will be replaced.

Daria Wojnarski said the lions, which cannot be repaired, will cost $220 plus taxes each to replace.

The small statues, which sit on the overpass near Prospect Point, were damaged Friday night. The park board will also pay to have the damaged ones removed. The total cost will be between $700 and $800.

One of the damaged lion statues
KAYLA ISOMURA/FOR METRO

This is the second time the lions have been vandalized, and it will take about two weeks to make the replacements.

KAYLA ISOMURA/FOR METRO

Measles. Outbreak largely contained to community of origin: Fraser Health

The largest measles outbreak in British Columbia is now largely contained, according to Fraser Health.

Public health officer Dr. Lisa Mu says an estimated 320 cases of the virus have affected communities in the eastern regions of the Fraser Valley over the past four weeks, but the outbreak is now segregated to a specific community that has refused vaccinations for the highly contagious virus.

"It's very much contained within the community that it started," said Mu.

The number of cases is expected to grow as second and third waves of the virus hit the community over the next two weeks, but the Ministry of Health is confident the risk to British Columbians outside those communities is low.

The communities affected have traditionally low immunization rates, and convincing people to get vaccinated has been challenging.

"It's unsurprising to see this many cases," said Mu.

The frustrations for health officials go further than that.

Mu said many families have even disregarded simple health advice like keeping children with symptoms out of school or staying at home until the illness passes.

Severe cases of measles can cause brain inflammation and can be fatal. Two children have been hospitalized.

Mu said there are rumours from public-health nurses of more severe cases, but patients have not come forward.

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

B.C. equals 'Bring Cash?' Ferry and electricity rate hikes aggravate critics

Critics of the B.C. government say there'll be nothing funny about April Fool's Day when rising ferry and electricity rates take effect around the province.

BC Hydro is hiking rates by nine per cent as part of a 10-year plan that Energy Minister Bill Bennett says will help fund billions of dollars worth of infrastructure investments.

Vehicles and passengers using BC Ferries will also pay about four per cent more, an increase that takes effect one day after the company announced final service schedules for minor and northern routes.

Jordan Bateman of the Canadian Taxpayers Federation says that, to many visitors, B.C. now stands for "bring cash."

He says the increases don't appear to be much when considered alone but when added to other hikes, such as insurance, health premiums and property taxes, the fees take a toll on the middle class and those on fixed incomes.

The NDP say the Liberals are continuing their ongoing litany of fee and fare hikes and hidden taxes, which are making the province less affordable. THE CANADIAN PRESS

A barn was destroyed in a suspicious fire in Surrey on Monday morning. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

Former grow-op goes up in smoke

Surrey. Landowner, RCMP leaning toward arson as cause of fire

EMILY JACKSON
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A Surrey barn that formerly housed a marijuana grow operation went up in smoke in a suspicious fire Monday morning.

Eight fire trucks and 20 firefighters responded to the blaze near 88th Avenue and Harvie Road just before 9 a.m., said Deputy Fire Chief Karen Fry.

The property is listed as a mushroom farm, but the landowner told reporters at the scene he leased the land to people running a licensed medical marijuana grow-op.

The grow-op had vacated the property in the past few days, he said, which would explain why one could catch only a faint whiff of B.C. bud at the Port Kells property.

Police are checking the status of the grow-op as part of the investigation, said Surrey RCMP Cpl. Bert Paquet.

No one was hurt in the blaze, but the barn was destroyed. Black smoke, which could be seen from downtown Vancouver, clouded the air long after crews extinguished the fire shortly before noon.

The landowner alleged arson was behind the fire.

"That's the direction we're heading," Surrey RCMP Cpl. Bill Ng told reporters at the scene. But it is too soon in the investigation to know what happened, as fire investigators have yet to gather enough evidence.

"We are working with the Surrey fire department to determine the actual cause of fire.… We'll be talking to the neighbours around here."

The landlord also alleged the grow-op had links to organized crime.

WITH FILES FROM JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

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See that symbol? It means you can scan this image with your Metro News app to see Russian President Vladimir Putin sing Blueberry Hill by Fats Domino.

PUTIN: PRESIDENT, PUGILIST, PERFORMER, PSYCHOPATH?

Metro asks a Toronto psychology professor what the Crimean crisis, hostile diplomatic relations and rehearsed public spectacles say about the Russian president's mental health

DYLAN C. ROBERTSON/FOR METRO IN TORONTO
toronto@metronews.ca

The many images of Putin: From top, in the mountains of the Siberian Tyva region; playing with his dogs Yume and Buffy; flying in a motorized hang glider alongside a Siberian white crane. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

From a shirtless fishing trip to riding with biker gangs, Russian President Vladimir Putin is known for his eccentric media appearances.

When armed men in military uniforms arrived in Crimea, Putin claimed they were not Russian soldiers, despite coming from Russia in the country's military trucks. Last Saturday, Putin's former economic adviser told a Swedish newspaper that the leader aims to take back the Baltic countries and even Finland.

As Putin steps up Russia's Arctic military presence, analysts are wondering whether his rhetoric is simply political posturing, or if he's lost his mind.

In the midst of the Crimean crisis last month, German Chancellor Angela Merkel reportedly told U.S. President Barack Obama she wasn't sure whether Putin "was still in touch with reality" and wondered if he was "living in another world."

So is Putin mentally unstable? Probably not, according to Steve Joordens, a psychology professor at the University of Toronto's Scarborough campus.

"You don't run part of the KGB and go on to lead a country without thinking straight," Joordens told Metro.

While it's impossible to evaluate someone's mental state from afar, Joordens believes Putin is instead tapping into the psyche of ordinary Russians, while manipulating other countries. Joordens sees three main themes:

A strong, manly image

Whether taking to the cockpit of a fighter jet or spinning out a Formula One race car at almost 240 km/h, Putin often appears to be a risk-taking stuntman.

Joordens says Putin is likely trying to show himself as a strong leader of a strong country after a rapid decline in territory and influence.

"Russia was one of two superpowers in its glory days, and it's lost a lot of self-esteem on a country level," he said. "Putin's attempt to show bravado is to preserve a sense of self-esteem."

Joordens notes that Putin portrays Russia as a global power faced with a common, external enemy: the West.

"That's potentially dangerous," said Joordens, who is cautious about drawing analogies with the Second World War. "Germany was also weak, but they had a strong leader. If you do that too much, there's potential to cause a lot of trouble."

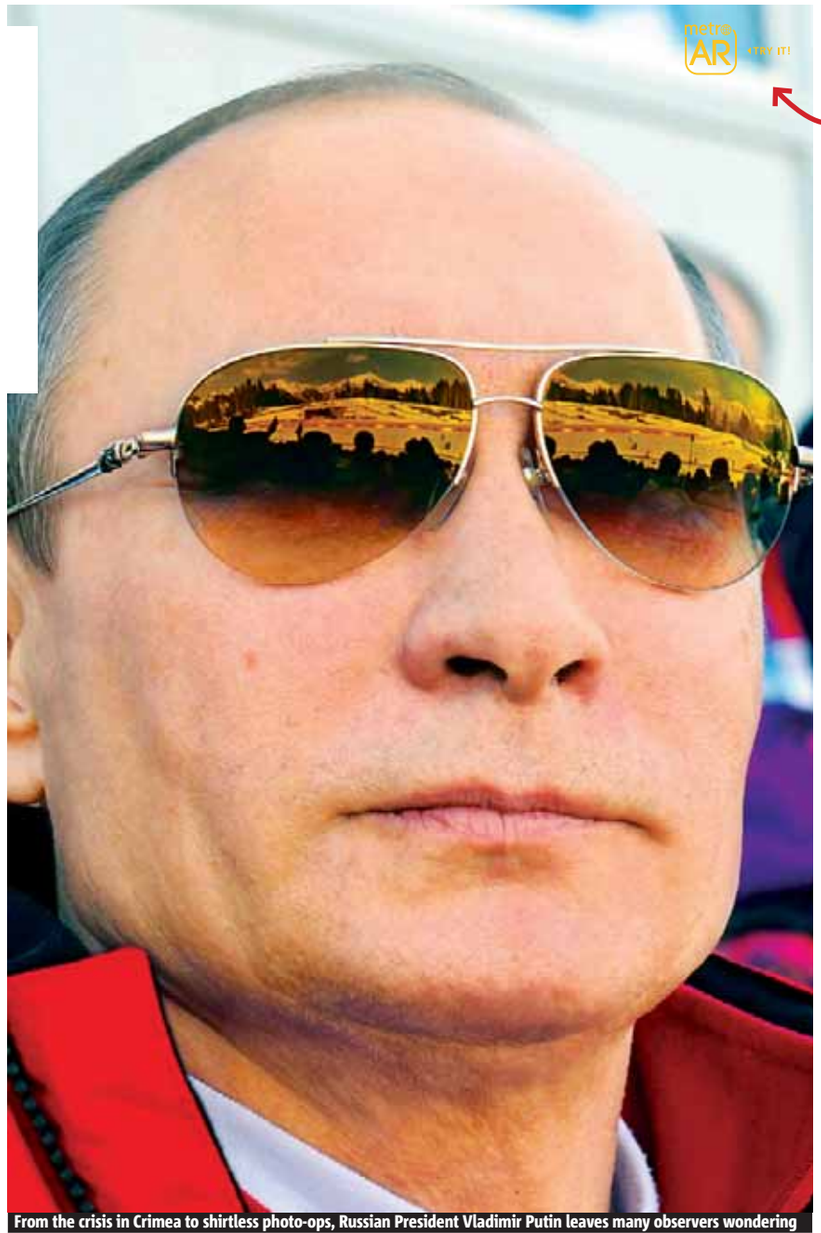
Diplomatic daredevil

"It's a question of how far (Putin) will take the sabre-rattling."
U of T psychology professor Steve Joordens

Double-speak

No one seems to know what's next for Ukraine, with Russia's foreign minister claiming his government has "no intention" of invading eastern Ukraine while they continue to station more troops at the border. "It's a classic poker technique," said Joordens. "Unpredictability is a source of strength."

But Putin also shows his softer side, posing with his dog Buffy. "He does like to surprise," said Joordens. "People use animals to make themselves look more compassionate."



From the crisis in Crimea to shirtless photo-ops, Russian President Vladimir Putin leaves many observers wondering what's really going on in his head. MIKHAIL KLIMENTYEV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Putin revealed himself to be a Paul McCartney fan, inviting the singer to Moscow in 2003 and giving him a personal tour of the Kremlin. He also sang the Fats Domino classic Blueberry Hill at a charity gala in 2010.

"It's a way of showing the West that 'Hey, he's one of us.' He keeps everybody guessing."

A hostile neighbour

Putin seems to be egging on Western countries, despite signing agreements against military action and carefully building up Russia's image through the Olympics.

"He knows that no one wants to go to war with Russia."

Joordens suspects that Putin saw Ukraine's uprising as a risk to Russia's influence. Joordens uses the analogy of a hostile neighbour.

"You might have someone causing animosity and friction around them, but they don't care because their family is the top priority," he said.

Some of the many legends of Vladimir Putin

Shooting a tiger

On a visit to Siberia in 2008, a tiger escaped from its cage and lunged toward journalists. Putin quickly grabbed a tranquilizer gun and subdued the beast in one shot.

He then helped measure its teeth before placing a satellite transmitter around its neck. He attached a similar collar to a polar bear in 2010, and also released a leopard into a Sochi-area sanctuary.

Putin admitted in 2012 that all these stunts were staged, with each animal brought in from zoos or sanctuaries where they had been trained.

The Judo master

During a 2003 visit to Japan, Putin upstaged Judo instructors, throwing his guests to the ground with special moves in front of the Japanese press. Putin published a book about the sport, saying that "Judo teaches self-control, the ability to feel the moment, to see the opponent's strengths and weaknesses."

Hanging out with biker gangs

When Obama came to Moscow in 2009, he met with then-president Dmitry Medvedev for five hours, while Putin got a brief press conference. A dejected Putin took to the streets with Hell's Angels-style motorcycle club Night Wolves, tying up traffic and stealing the spotlight.

Wild climate ride ahead: UN panel

New report. Warning based on more than 12,000 peer-reviewed scientific studies

If the world doesn't cut pollution of heat-trapping gases, the already noticeable harms of global warming could spiral "out of control," the head of a United Nations scientific panel warned Monday.

And he's not alone. The White House says it is taking this new report as a call for change, with Secretary of State John Kerry saying "the costs of inaction are catastrophic."

Rajendra Pachauri, chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that issued the 32-volume, 2,610-page report early Monday, told The Associated Press: "It is a call for action." Without reductions in emissions, he said, impacts from warming "could get out of control."

One of the study's authors, Maarten van Aalst, a top official at the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, said, "If we don't reduce greenhouse gases soon, risks will get out of hand. And the risks have already risen."

Twenty-first century disasters such as killer heat waves in Europe, wildfires in the United States, droughts in Australia and deadly flooding in Mozambique, Thailand and Pakistan highlight how vulnerable humanity is to extreme weather, according to the report from the Nobel Prize-winning group of scientists. The dangers are going to worsen as the climate changes even more, the report's authors said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This Nov. 9, 2013 photo shows Typhoon Haiyan as seen by astronaut Karen L. Nyberg aboard the International Space Station. Global warming is driving humanity toward a whole new level of risks, a UN scientific panel reports, warning that the wild climate ride has only just begun. KAREN L. NYBERG/NASA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Outcomes of a hotter world

Global warming makes feeding the world harder and more expensive, the United Nations climate-change panel says.

A warmer world will push food prices higher, trigger "hot spots of hunger" among the world's poorest people, and put the crunch on Western delights like fine wine and robust coffee, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change concluded in its 32-volume report issued Monday.

"We're facing the spectre of reduced yields in some of the key crops that feed humanity," panel chairman Rajendra Pachauri said in press conference releasing the report.

Even though heat and carbon dioxide are often considered good for plants, the overall effect of various aspects of man-made warming is that it will reduce food production compared to a world without global warming, the report said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Global warming

Economic, financial impacts

The economic and financial impact of global warming is complex and not well understood. In some scenarios there would be economic benefits for countries that get warmer and wetter and consequently more fertile agriculturally. Drier weather in some regions would result in sharply lower crop yields.

Overall, changes in climate are expected to cause significant disruptions that also exact an economic toll.

Advisers to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change say that the world economy may suffer losses of between 0.2 per cent and 2 per cent of income if temperatures rise by 2 degrees from recent levels. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quebec election. Rare clause will keep values charter alive, Marois says

Parti Québécois Leader Pauline Marois is prepared to invoke the rarely used notwithstanding clause to ensure her party's controversial secular charter is adopted.

Marois said Monday she will reintroduce the values charter project as it currently stands if her party forms a majority government after next Monday's Quebec election.

And after stating for months the government was confident the secular charter could withstand any judicial challenge, Marois threatened to use the notwithstanding clause to immediately ward off the possibility of any legal threat.

The clause is enshrined in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and allows Parliament or provinces to override the rights charter in order to adopt legislation. The exemption lasts five years.

PQ leader Pauline Marois at a news conference in Trois-Rivières, Que. PAUL CHIASSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Marois said the clause would simply be integrated into the values charter. The proposed legislation would ban all public-sector employees from displaying or wearing religious symbols such as the hijab or the kippa. THE CANADIAN PRESS

B.C. Former teacher facing child-sex tourism charges appears in court

The man once imprisoned in Thailand for sexually assaulting children has appeared in a British Columbia court over accusations of child-sex tourism.

Christopher Neil's brief first court appearance in Port Coquitlam, B.C., was much more sedate than when he was paraded past media by authorities in Thailand in 2007.

The charges in Canada are significant because Neil has never been prosecuted on his home turf for offences he allegedly committed overseas.

Neil's lawyer, Mark Thompson, says the penalties are also much more severe.

The former teacher from Maple Ridge, B.C., faces five new charges stemming from alleged sexual incidents involving children that occurred in Cambodia in 2003. He's also accused of child pornography-related crimes in B.C., resulting in five additional charges.

His next court appearance is April 10.

Neil spent five years in a Thai prison after Interpol unravelled digital computer images of him engaged in sex acts with children. THE CANADIAN PRESS

F-word kerfuffle

Trudeau cusses, PMO fusses

Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau says he got "a talking to" from his wife for using the F-word in public, but he won't take any criticism from the Harper government.

Trudeau dropped the F-bomb over the weekend while speaking at a charity boxing match in Gatineau, Que.

The Prime Minister's Office said it was just another example of Trudeau's "lack of judgment."

The Liberal leader says he let his "emotions run a little hot" while speaking at the boxing match.

But Trudeau says the Harper government is hardly in a position to criticize anyone over judgment when it is dealing with issues like the Senate spending scandal.

Trudeau told a cheering crowd Saturday night that there was no experience like stepping into the boxing ring and "measuring yourself" — adding that "your name, your fortune, your intelligence, your beauty, none of that (expletive) matters." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Australian PM vows to continue search 'for quite some time'

Royal New Zealand Air Force P-3 Orion's captain, Wing Commander Rob Shearer, scans the southern Indian Ocean Monday while looking for evidence of missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370. Although it has been slow, difficult and frustrating so far, the search for the plane is nowhere near the point of being scaled back, Australia's prime minister pledged Monday. The three-week hunt has turned up no signs of the Boeing 777, which vanished March 8 with 239 people bound for Beijing from Kuala Lumpur. ROB GRIFFITH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russia sees 'virtue' of pact, Baird says

Tough diplomacy. After Crimea debacle, expert warns Canada should have its eye on Arctic claims

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird says he hopes Russia has seen the "virtue" of diplomacy to resolve the crisis in Ukraine, while a defence expert warns that Canada should be paying more attention to Russia's claims in the Arctic.

Baird, speaking in Chisinau, Moldova, sounded hopeful about talks between Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry in Paris, aimed at diffusing tension in eastern Europe.

"We believe that Russia has apparently now seen the virtue of a diplomatic pact and equivalent steps in positive action," Baird said at a joint news conference with Moldova's foreign minister.

"Frankly speaking, the actions of the Russian Federation will speak more loudly than its words."

He again called on Moscow to withdraw troops from Crimea and along the borders of eastern Ukraine.

Russia laid out a tough set of conditions for a diplomatic settlement, proposals that would radically alter the way Ukraine is governed and administered by making regions more autonomous.

Baird met with a series of senior government ministers in Moldova, a country squeezed between Ukraine and Romania, and assured them Canada strongly believes in the country's territorial integrity.

But defence expert Rob Huebert of the University of Calgary says the Harper government should be paying closer attention to Canada's own yet-to-be-defined border with Russia in the Arctic.

His warning comes after a published report in Moscow last week saying further militarization in the Arctic that would challenge Russia's preeminence in the region is a "red line" that the West dare not cross.

Canada and Russia have competing interests in the Far North, especially in resource development. The stakes were raised when Prime Minister Stephen Harper last year ordered that Ottawa's presentation to a United Nations panel on boundaries in the Arctic be updated to include a claim to the North Pole.

Although the two nations — as well as several other Arctic countries — are engaged in an international process, Huebert said Putin's recent annexation of Crimea in defiance of international law raises the question of whether Russia would respect a border decision that doesn't go in its favour.

"You have an increasingly isolated Russia that has identified the Arctic region as one of their core strategic interests," said Huebert.

"You have to ask the question: If they've been kicked out of the G8 and humiliated, are they going to keep playing by the rules of the international community if they think this is costing them substantial resources?"

The take-away from the Ukraine crisis is that Russia must be taken seriously and as a consequence, he says, the Harper government should take a closer look at its own military plans in the Arctic. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"If they've been kicked out of the G8 and humiliated, are they going to keep playing by the rules of the international community?"

Rob Huebert, University of Calgary defence expert on Russia's interests in the Far North

Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

UN orders a stop to scenes like this

A minke whale is unloaded at a port after a whaling for scientific purposes in Kushiro, in the northernmost main island of Hokkaido in September 2013. The International Court of Justice on Monday ordered a temporary halt to Japan's Antarctic whaling program, ruling that it is not for scientific purposes as the Japanese had claimed. In hopes of ending whaling in the icy Southern Ocean, Australia sued Japan at the UN's highest court for resolving disputes between nations. KYODO NEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

There is no such thing as a new idea?

R&D. Judges must decide if Mark Twain was right when he argued we just make 'new and curious combinations' of existing ideas

Is it too easy for high-tech companies to patent inventions that are not really new, but simply old ideas blended with computer wizardry?

The Supreme Court in the U.S. wrestled with that question Monday as justices considered making it tougher for the government to issue patents for computer software.

The outcome could send tremors through an industry that touches virtually every sector of the economy, from gadgets on smartphones to advances in anti-lock brakes.

The issue has divided the nation's technology giants, with companies like Microsoft Corp. and IBM warning that new restrictions could nullify thousands of existing patents that are the product of billions in research and development. On the other side, firms including Google, Facebook and Netflix say the free flow of software patents has become a "plague" on the industry, blocking companies from promoting innovation.

The justices weighed arguments in a case involving Alice Corp., an Australian financial company that in the 1990s patented a computer program to reduce the risk in financial transactions. The software allows a neutral third party to make sure all parties to a trade have lived up to their obligations.

CLS Bank International challenged the patent as invalid, arguing that Alice merely took a concept that's been around since ancient times and programmed it to run through a computer.

A decision is expected by June. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seacrest out ... for now

BlackBerry has won a preliminary injunction barring sales of a Typo Products LLC iPhone keyboard attachment it claims infringes on two of its patents.

- A judge said BlackBerry had a "likelihood" of proving the $99 US physical keyboard, which can be clipped to some versions of Apple Inc.'s touch screen iPhone 5, violates its intellectual property rights.
- Los Angeles-based Typo, co-founded by entrepreneur Laurence Hallier and American Idol host Ryan Seacrest, said it plans to appeal the decision.

Medical marijuana. Future of pot hazy as feds launch legal challenge

The federal government will contest an injunction that allows people to continue to grow medical marijuana while a full legal challenge plays out in the courts.

It is the latest salvo in a series of legal actions over how the government administers its medical pot program.

Earlier this month, Federal Court Judge Michael Manson ruled that patients currently licensed to grow their own marijuana would be permitted to produce the drug even after new regulations banning the practice take effect Tuesday.

The judge granted an application from medical marijuana patients seeking a temporary injunction to preserve the status quo until their constitutional challenge of the new system could be heard.

The government said Monday it will ask the Federal Court of Appeal to overturn the injunction.

Under the existing federal program, thousands of people have licences to cultivate marijuana for personal use to help ease painful symptoms of conditions such as diabetes and multiple sclerosis.

The government says growing marijuana at home poses hazards including mould, fire, toxic chemicals and the threat of home invasion by criminals.

It plans to allow only select commercial producers to grow marijuana under "secure and sanitary conditions" for distribution through the mail, in dried form, to medically approved patients. THE CANADIAN PRESS

A legal medical marijuana facility in B.C. March 21. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Big 3

Telus CEO out after 14 years

Darren Entwistle is stepping down as chief executive of Telus Corp., but his influence in running the company he built from a regional telephone service into a $25-billion national wireless player will remain.

After 14 years as president and CEO, Entwistle announced Monday that he is taking on the executive chairman's role at the company he helped grow into one of Canada's three major telecommunications companies, alongside Rogers and Bell.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR
90.46¢ (+0.04¢)

TSX
14,335.31 (+74.59)

OIL
$101.58 US (-$0.09)

GOLD
$1,283.80 US (-$10.50)

Natural gas: $4.37 US (-$0.11)
Dow Jones: 16,457.66 (+ 134.60)

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IS THIS A SICK POTTY JOKE?

How do you flush a toilet?

You might think this question has a pretty obvious answer, but a recent discussion with some friends of mine has left me questioning everything I thought I knew about bathroom etiquette. It would seem that it's now standard practice to use your foot to flush the toilet when using a public washroom.

Am I the only person who didn't get the Health Canada memo on this new procedure? I had no idea that we were no longer using our hands to perform this perfunctory task.

Apparently this foot-flushing technique isn't just the invention of a neurotic minority. A 2013 study found that 64 per cent of North Americans operate the toilet flusher with their shoe-clad foot in order to avoid coming into contact with germs in public restrooms.

I can't understand why North Americans are so precious when it comes to personal hygiene. I happen to have an incredibly strong immune system in spite of my daily skin-to-toilet contact. My resilience probably has a lot to do with my complete indifference towards germs, a carefree attitude that I inherited from my father who is the type of man who will marinate a raw chicken breast with his bare hands and then lick the BBQ sauce off his fingertips.

SHE SAYS

Jessica Napier
metronews.ca

Despite all the fear mongering out there, I just can't bring myself to be afraid of something I can't see. I'm a firm believer in the five-second rule (or even the two-minute rule) and will gladly share a beverage with another person as long as we're on a first-name basis. I ride public transit, double-dip my chips and once ate a chocolate Easter bunny out of the garbage (it was partially wrapped, in my defence).

I'm not completely uncivilized of course. If someone offers me hand sanitizer I will use it because I know that is the polite thing to do and I adhere to the government-mandated arm-sneeze to protect all the anxious worrywarts out there.

Germs? Who needs 'em

Despite all the fear mongering out there, I just can't bring myself to be afraid of something I can't see.

It's actually these extremists— those who obsessively clean their countertops with pungent antibacterial wipes and scrub their hands like they're prepping for surgery — who seem to get struck down by the common cold so frequently. I assume their bodies are having bad reactions to all the antiseptic fumes and high levels of neuroses.

I know there's nothing glamorous about using a public bathroom, but karate kicking a toilet to avoid touching it with your hands just seems outrageously paranoid to me. If you're trying to avoid all of the infinitesimal microorganisms that are out there just waiting to latch onto you, you're just going to worry yourself sick.

Follow Jessica Napier on Twitter @MetroSheSays

ZOOM

Art that tests the waters

COURTESY JASON DECAIRES TAYLOR

Sub-aquatic museum

For the past five years, British sculptor Jason deCaires Taylor has transformed seabeds off Mexico and Grenada into underwater art sites. Taylor, 39, sculpts life-size statues, then submerges them at depths of nine metres. His work is featured in a new book The Underwater Museum, published by Chronicle Books. METRO

Q & A with Taylor

How did you come up with the underwater sculpture?
I started to explore how I could adopt a more conservationist approach in my sculpture. Being a diver and watching how we are losing swathes of coral reefs, I felt inspired to take action. An artificial reef — where marine life (and tourists) gravitate towards objects — seemed the perfect way for art to help the planet.

Help? How exactly?
The reef encourages fish and coral to live and grow there, while the human statues are linked to the concept of climate change. This art-meets-reef — a sort of visual regeneration – can instill a sense of hope and recovery.

METRO AUGMENTED REALITY

SEE THE NEWS COME ALIVE...

This issue, you can find AR enhancements on page 4 in News, page 9 in Scene, page 13 in Life and page 14 in Sports.

To see pages from Metro spring to life, simply download or update the Metro News app available from your device's app store and follow these three easy steps:

1. Open the Metro News app on your smartphone or tablet device. Click the AR icon in the top right corner.

2. Hold your device over any image that has the AR logo near it. Make sure you wait for the green scanning bar to read the image!

3. Voilà! You should see the AR in action — like a video, slide show or mobile content experience. You can even move your phone away from the page and interact with the content directly on your device.

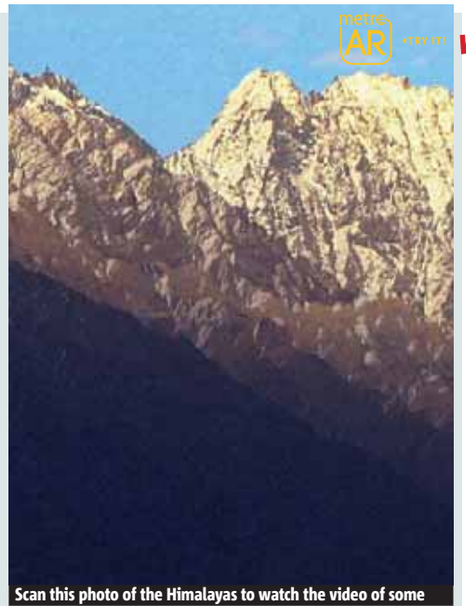
MetroTube

Howls in the Himalayas

ANDREW FIFIELD
metronews.ca

For most of the country, spring made its long-awaited debut in the past couple weeks — hang in there, Atlantic Canada.

Which, of course, means that all dreary winter dreaming about warm exotic places is easing a bit. Though, as that mental fog lifts, we find ourselves regretting the hastily booked Treacherous Himalayan Roads Tour.



Scan this photo of the Himalayas to watch the video of some courageous travellers who skirt the mountain cliff. GETTY IMAGES

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See that symbol? It means you can scan this image with your Metro News app to see a photo gallery of Emma Watson from her start in Harry Potter to Noah.

DVD review

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues

Director. Adam McKay

Stars. Will Ferrell, Steve Carell, Paul Rudd

I quote Brian Fantana's promise about Sex Panther cologne: "60 per cent of the time, it works every time."

So does this long-awaited comedy sequel that supposedly nobody wanted — except for millions of fans of Ron Burgundy, Will Ferrell's puffed-up TV newscaster, and his Channel 4 teammates: scented news sleuth Fantana (Paul Rudd), thunderdolt weatherman Brick Tamland (Steve Carell) and sports clod Champ "Whammy!" Kind (David Koechner).

Now that it's here, again directed by Adam McKay and co-written with Ferrell, it must be said that Anchorman has gone from being kind of a big deal to being kind of a bloated deal. Anchorman 2 nevertheless amuses, with your personal hilarity meter likely rating it higher if you enjoy seeing beloved characters acting even goofier. **PETER HOWELL**

Emma Watson moves beyond Hermione

All grown-up. The star of new release Noah talks to Metro about her movie career, and finding a work-life balance

GABRIELA ACOSTA SILVA
Metro World News

Emma Watson with costar Douglas Booth in Noah. HANDOUT

Hermione is all grown-up now. Almost three years on since the Harry Potter movie franchise ended, Emma Watson is out to prove there is life beyond Hogwarts. "I still need to show people what I can do outside of Harry Potter. I don't think I'm quite there yet, but I'm getting there," the star of Noah tells Metro Latin America at the Spanish premiere of the new movie in Madrid.

There's been a lot of buzz surrounding Noah, both good and bad.

The producers did a lot of research and came up with many different versions of the script. The biggest problem is that in the Bible, Noah's story is like half a page. So basically, we made a three-hour movie out of three paragraphs.

How would you describe the movie?

When the screenplay is written by someone like Darren Aronofsky you know you're going to be doing something special. I'd say the movie is more of a study of people who find themselves in a futuristic, apocalyptic world.

What is your biggest challenge right now?

Prove that I am no longer Hermione. I need to be able to be good, bad, bold or innocent in whatever role I take on. But I still need to show people what I can do outside of Harry Potter. I don't think I'm quite there yet, but I'm getting there.

You're studying as well as working. How is university going?

I'll be graduating from Brown University in May and I'm glad I took the time out to study. I have the rest of my life to make movies and I feel like I learned a lot just by living alone in another country. I feel like I'm at the stage where I now have a healthy balance between my professional and personal life.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Bachelor stars get no love from Atlantic City

PAT HEALY
Metro World News in Boston

Atlantic City didn't have the kindest of receptions for Bachelor star Juan Pablo Galavis and his girlfriend, Nikki Ferrell, who came to the resort town for a special appearance at The Pool After Dark at Harrah's Resort Atlantic City on Saturday night.

Galavis and Ferrell appeared on the red carpet around midnight, and the locals were angry. Galavis was originally to sit at a VIP table next to the stage until someone (it is not known who this local hero was) threw an aluminum beer bottle at him. After that, the organizers moved him to a cabana area for his own safety.

According to reports (read: the publicist who sent me this), Ferrell joined Galavis in the VIP cabana area where they "kissed" and "held hands" until around 3 a.m, hopefully fulfilling all contractual engagements.

Read: The two didn't stick around for that long, and once they collected their paycheque, flew to Miami the next day.

One part Franco didn't play was Lohan's lover

Lindsay Lohan

James Franco doesn't say the whole list is bogus, but he definitely doesn't think his name belongs on it, insisting that he has never gotten intimate with the troubled starlet.

In an interview with Los Angeles Magazine, Franco defends his decision to write about other celebrities in his new book of poetry.

"I didn't write anything bad about them," he says. "And Lindsay herself has told lies about me with her 'people she's slept with' list. So I feel like what I said is much less than what she's said."

Twitter

@ChloeGMoretz
When u only get 2 1/2 hours of sleep

@mcgregor_ewan
Thanks for all the B'dy wishes. You've made a newly 43 year old very happy. Cheers the noo.

@EvaLongoria
Just realized we did a little pilot called Desperate Housewives 10 years ago! March 2004!

Have you Heard? Depp is wearing a 'chick's ring'

Johnny Depp showed off a diamond engagement ring that he called a "chick's ring" on Monday - indirectly confirming rumours of his engagement to actress Amber Heard.

Asked whether he was engaged, the Pirates of the Caribbean star replied, "The fact that I'm wearing a chick's ring on my finger is probably a dead giveaway. Not very subtle." He laughed as he lifted up his left hand and displayed a single diamond on a band around his ring finger.

His comments follow months of unconfirmed reports of his engagement to actress Heard, 27, who starred alongside Kevin Costner in 3 Days to Kill released in the U.S. earlier this year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

You could WIN an advance screening pass to see THE RAID2 on April 9

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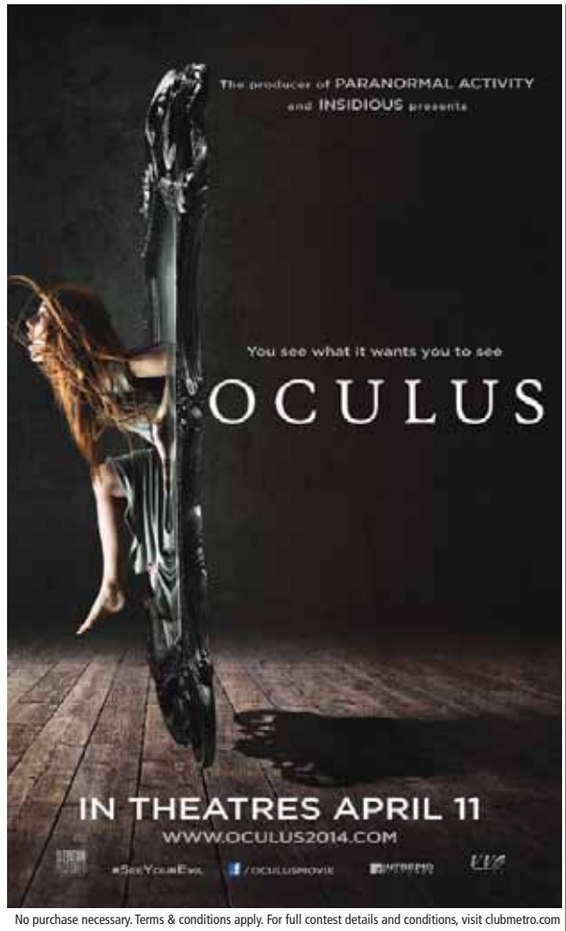

You could WIN a double pass to see the advance screening of OCULUS on Wednesday, April 9th

#SeeYourEvil
/oculusmovie

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Putting a face to autism

National Autism Awareness Month.
April is a time to educate the public about everything autism. A mom offers a glimpse into an evening with her autistic daughter

LESLEE HERSH
life@metronews.ca

Lauren, 13, was diagnosed with autism at age 4. SUBMITTED

It's Friday and the nanny has left for the weekend. Lauren is submerged in the bath, singing aloud, happy as a clam. She is always happy, and that is my salvation. All we are supposed to want for our children is for them to happy, isn't it?

I realize I forgot her PJs and a fresh towel, so I go to retrieve them from the closet in her bedroom. I come back to small drips and puddles along the bathroom floor. The shuttered bathroom window is now firmly closed, as is the vanity drawer, both of which were inadvertently left slightly open. She is lying contentedly back in the bathtub and could stay there entertaining herself for hours if I let her. Everything is in perfect order, as it must be, or chaos might ensue.

"Write down calendar!" she cries. I transcribe a visual daily calendar with activities on a chalkboard in her room, each upcoming event identified — from mealtimes and snacks to baths and sleep. This is critically important to her, so I use it as a tool to motivate her to focus on getting herself dressed. "First PJs, then calendar," I tell her. For the reward, she obliges.

The telephone rings. "Gooooodbyyye!" she shrieks before I even answer.

Lauren does not like when my attention is focused on anything but her. I tell her it is Grandma, and ask if she would like to say hello. "Eeeyeeeessss", she replies. The conversation ensues: "hiGrandmahowareyoulamgood" and is followed by a series of "eeeyeeesses" in response to unheard questions. After a quick "Goodbye, Grandpa" (who is really still Grandma), I take the phone to speak, and the "gooodbyyyes" start again, over and over until the phone is set properly back in its cradle.

I fill out her calendar while she grabs her Magna Doodle and begins furiously scribbling to calm herself down further. This is her "stim." Others living with autism — a disorder of neural development characterized by impaired social interaction and verbal and nonverbal communication, and by restricted, repetitive or stereotyped behaviour — like to rock back and forth or find other repeated actions to calm down.

"I need hugs, Mom." The squeezing motion calms her again, and she reaches for her cherished iPad and searches YouTube. For the next several hours, she positions herself in her usual way, deep within the folds of her beanbag chair, and repeatedly watches Barney, Baby Einstein, and Sesame Street episodes that she has watched nightly for years.

Next, she carefully inspects their video box covers that she has managed to source on eBay, because this too is very important to her. She has memorized every single word and song from every one of these YouTube videos and recites them, in sync with the films. The precision is almost perfect now, but this has taken several years of dedicated practice, because she cannot even carry on a conversation yet. She is 13.

I take away the iPad and prepare her for bed. Again, she babbles out loud to herself and carries on like this easily for the next two hours. She laughs out loud and then sings, completely immersed with the images and voices in her head. She laughs again when she hears Rihanna and Eminem sing they are friends with the monsters in their head, as if she understands. I suspect she does. She loves music more than anyone I know. Sometimes I stop when I think of her most favourite songs because I am afraid to believe my own thoughts.

If she does understand, and my desperate hope for "normalcy" returns, will it be crushed again by professionals telling me it is only wishful thinking?

The songs? Firework by Katy Perry, and Born This Way by Lady Gaga. Read the lyrics and — although she might not be coherent should you meet her, and certainly could not share her thoughts with you — please be the judge.

Then, try to understand the frustration that she lives with day after day, night after night, and year after year.

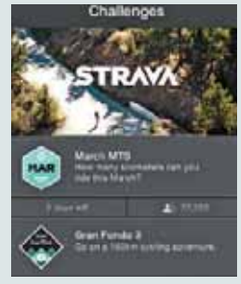
That is the face of autism.

For your phone

Strava iPhone/Android; free)

MIND THE APP
Kris Abel
@RealKrisAbel
life@metronews.ca

Find great routes for cycling and running in your area with this GPS tracker that offers fun challenges while comparing your performance against others of the same age and weight.



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Happenings in the world of health studies

BEST HEALTH MINUTE
Bonnie Munday
Editor-in-chief
Best Health Magazine

Best Health regularly covers family health studies. Here are a few recent ones.

Rules matter: In an Australian study, parents of 4,000 children aged four and five were asked to describe their parenting style and then report every two years on their child's height and weight. Researchers found parents who set consistent rules about TV viewing, dinnertime and physical activity tended to have children with healthier weights.

Binge drinking: One in five high school students reported binge drinking (five or more drinks) recently, and one in 10 reported "extreme" binge drinking (10 drinks or more), according to an American study. Researchers say better enforcement of underage drinking laws may help.

Successful breastfeeding: A U.S. study found that women who spend on average three hours with a lactation consultant are more likely to start breastfeeding their babies and to still be breastfeeding three months later. Lactation consultants can be accessed through hospitals or public health programs. They can help with various problems.

Teens and obesity: Adolescents who are obese have a quadrupled risk of high blood pressure in adulthood than teens who are not obese, according to an American study. This is just part of the growing evidence that heart disease may start in childhood.

Aggression: Children who were spanked twice a week by their mothers at age three or five were much more likely to break rules and act aggressively by age nine than those who were not spanked, says a U.S. study of 2,000 families.

Interestingly, frequent spankings at age five from fathers resulted in lower test scores on receptive vocabulary.

Women who spend time with a lactation consultant are more likely to start breastfeeding and still be doing so three months later. ISTOCK

Music devices and hearing loss: One in six teens age 13 to 17 has preventable hearing loss. However, parents were found to be unaware of the risk of high-frequency hearing loss, which happens over time and is often related to personal music devices. Researchers say parents need to talk to teens about reasonable music volumes.

BEST HEALTH IS ON NEWSSTANDS, OR YOU CAN SUBSCRIBE AT BESTHEALTHMAG.CA. WE ALSO HAVE AN AWARD-WINNING IPAD EDITION.

Every bunny get ready for a change...

Spring Service Changes begin Monday, April 14

From March 31 to April 14 visit **translink.ca/metro** to find which route the Bunny is hopping on
Enter for your chance to win a HUGE chocolate bunny!*

*Terms and conditions apply – visit **translink.ca** for more details

TRANSLINK

See that symbol? It means you can scan this image with your Metro News app to see a video of Nutri-bites columnist Theresa Albert visiting a mushroom farm.

Creamy comfort without the cream

Quick Cream of Mushroom Soup.
Forego tradition and make this filling soup with new ingredients

THERESA ALBERT
myfriendinfood.com

No one will ever know that there is yogurt and tofu in this soup instead of cream.

Together, they are excellent and filling protein.

The only trick to this soup is to keep the temperature at a simmer since boiling will turn the creaminess into graininess and then we are both busted as nutrient hiders. Don't say I didn't warn you!

1. Break shiitake mushrooms into smaller pieces and place in a microwavable bowl with the 2 cups of water. Cover and place in microwave for 3-4 minutes until softened. Set aside

2. Stir cornstarch into the plain Greek yogurt and set the mixture aside.

3. Brown butter in a large pot and add onions, cook for 3 minutes. Add mushrooms and brown over medium high heat for 3-4 minutes.

4. Add pepper, onion powder and stir 2 minutes. Pour reconstituted mushrooms with liquid through a strainer to catch any dirt or sand, add chicken broth and tarragon and bring to a boil to for 5 minutes.

5. Whisk in yogurt mixture and silken tofu.

6. Puree the mixture with a hand wand or in a blender, and top with cheddar when serving in bowls with a warm slice of bread.

FLASH FOOD
From your fridge to your table in 30 minutes or less

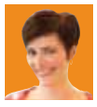
Ingredients

- 1 cup dried shiitake mushroom
- 2 cups water
- 1 tbsp cornstarch (or arrowroot powder)
- 1 cup plain, gelatin-free Greek yogurt
- 1 tbsp butter
- 1 onion, chopped
- 8 oz (1 package) sliced mushroom
- 2 tsp white pepper
- 1 tsp onion powder
- 2 cups reduced sodium chicken broth
- 1 tsp tarragon
- 6 oz (1 package) silken tofu

This recipe serves four and takes 20 minutes to make. THERESA ALBERT

THERESA ALBERT IS A FOOD COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST AND PRIVATE NUTRITIONIST IN TORONTO. SHE IS @THERESAALBERT ON TWITTER AND FOUND DAILY AT MYFRIENDINFOOD.COM

Spongy, pale, nutrient heavy



NUTRI-BITES
Theresa Albert
DHN, RNCP
myfriendinfood.com

Spring marks the big thaw and the sprouting of luscious things from the earth.

All mushrooms contain trace minerals that they pull from the earth and/or the wood that they grow on. They are also high in the stress-fighting B vitamins and contain bone building vitamin D.

Quite a punch for a small, pale, spongy thing.

Many wild and specialty mushrooms are grown year-round in temperature, moisture, light and heat controlled barns.

They feed on wood logs that are specifically structured and tended to according to each species' needs.

Dried mushrooms are fairly common but can get pricey! Search the Asian section of your grocery store for a big ol' bag of shiitake shrooms rather than in the grocery section for a delicate pack of "mixed gourmet". You will get *mush* more bang for your buck. Get it?

By far, the best way to cook any fresh mushroom is in a skillet that has been heated to very high heat.

Rinse and dry the mushrooms on paper towels, add a knob of butter to the hot pan and let melt and slightly brown.

Do not crowd the pan. Allow space between each piece since the key to cooking mushrooms, so they brown rather than turn grey, is to make sure the water evaporates.

THERESA ALBERT IS A FOOD COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST AND PRIVATE NUTRITIONIST IN TORONTO. SHE IS @THERESAALBERT ON TWITTER AND FOUND DAILY AT MYFRIENDINFOOD.COM

Miguel Cabrera, Robinson Cano and Mike Trout will have to live up to huge expectations after signing a trio of the biggest contracts in the history of baseball. Scan the image with your Metro News app to vote on some of the worst contracts in sports.

SPORTS 4

Jays pick up where they left off in Tampa

MLB. Toronto's luck looks to have carried over from 2013 with Reyes injured, Dickey thumped in opener

Rays outfielder Desmond Jennings, left, beats the tag of Toronto Blue Jays catcher Josh Thole to give Tampa Bay a 6-0 lead during the fifth inning of Monday's season opener in St. Petersburg, Fla. CHRIS O'MEARA/GETTY IMAGES

Jose Reyes aggravated an injury, R.A. Dickey struggled and the Toronto Blue Jays ended up with a one-sided loss to Tampa Bay.

David Price took a shutout into the eighth inning and Matt Joyce drove in three runs Monday to help the Rays begin the season with a 9-2 victory over the Blue Jays.

Reyes left the lineup after his first at-bat because of a tight left hamstring. The star shortstop led off the game and was robbed of a hit on a diving catch by Rays centre-fielder Desmond Jennings. He was replaced in the field by Ryan Goins.

"I tried to run a little bit faster between home plate and first base, and I kind of feel my hammy there," Reyes said. "So I have to slow down and get out of the game because I don't want to get any worse."

Reyes missed several games during the final week of spring training with the same problem, and wasn't at 100 per cent for exhibition games Friday and Saturday in Montreal. He will have an MRI and is expected to be put on the 15-day disabled list on Tuesday.

"Irritated the same spot, so that's a concern," Toronto manager John Gibbons said.

Reyes missed 66 games last season after going on the DL April 13 with a sprained left ankle.

Opening day

Rays	Jays
9	2

Price (1-0) allowed two runs and six hits over 7 1/3 innings to beat R.A. Dickey in a match-up of 2012 Cy Young Award winners. The hard-throwing lefty walked one and struck out six before a crowd of 31,042 at Tropicana Field.

"It's really disappointing and frustrating," Dickey said. "You feel like you let a lot of people down. Against David Price, one of the best pitchers in baseball, if you don't match him inning per inning, it's going to be tough to win the game. I put us in a hole early. Walked some guys early, gave up some 0-2 hits with runners in scoring position, and that was the game."

Price limited the Jays to four singles and had only allowed two runners past second base before Maicer Izturis opened the eighth with his second hit of the day. Pinch-hitter Erik Kratz followed with a first-pitch, two-run homer to centre-field. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Detroit Tigers slugger Miguel Cabrera agreed Friday to the richest contract in American sports, a $292-million, 10-year deal with the Detroit Tigers. GETTY IMAGES

Metro AR poll results

41% Metro readers voted Norway's multi-coloured Olympic curling pants as the ugliest in our poll of ugly sports uniforms. Here are the rest of the results:

23% Northwestern football (stars and stripes, 2013)

13% Chicago Bulls (St. Patrick's Day green sleeves, 2014)

13% New York Islanders (Capt. Highliner logo, 1995)

10% Blue Jays (with buff bird logo, 2003)

0% Toronto Raptors (purple duds, 1995)

MLB

Expanded replay proves quick and effective

Major League Baseball launched the expanded replay era Monday, and saw instant results — a pair of missed calls by umpires got fixed fast, without any arguments.

Opening day showed off the game's newest nod to modern technology in a sport that long relied on the eyes of its umps.

Of the first four reviews Monday, none took longer than 2 1/2 minutes. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vigneault could push Canucks closer to the brink

Alain Vigneault will be back in Vancouver Tuesday when the Rangers visit the Canucks. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Alain Vigneault's first trip back to Vancouver since he was fired by the Canucks last spring following seven years as the team's head coach may have been emotional and about the memories.

That was in September for a pre-season game. This time, the New York Rangers bench boss is here with his team on business.

"It's all about winning games," said Vigneault.

The Rangers have been doing plenty of that lately.

They've won six of their last seven games, and are fifth in the Eastern Conference with 88 points, well on the way to a playoff berth as they visit the Vancouver Canucks at Rogers Arena on Tuesday.

The same cannot be said for the Canucks. Their already slim playoff chances fell into decline again after a deflating 5-1 loss to the Anaheim Ducks on home ice Saturday.

Quoted

"Alain's winning games, so he's the smart guy."

Canucks head coach John Tortorella on counterpart Alain Vigneault.

It's been a dismal three months for the Canucks. On Jan. 1, they sat sixth in the Western Conference, pushing the L.A. Kings and San Jose Sharks for second in the Pacific Division. They now sit 10th in the conference, five points out of a playoff spot with six games remaining.

On Tuesday, the Rangers have a chance to push the Canucks even closer to the brink of elimination, while improving their already strong chances of getting into the playoffs.

The paths Vigneault and John Tortorella took to their current destinations, and just how far apart their teams are in their respective playoff hunts, only adds to the storyline.

Vigneault was canned after the Canucks were swept in the playoffs last year, and Tortorella lost his job after the Rangers were eliminated in the second round.

The Rangers then turned around and hired Vigneault, and the Canucks hired Tortorella. "We're losing games, so I'm the idiot. Alain's winning games, so he's the smart guy," Tortorella quipped.

"When you lose games … you're going to get scrutinized." CAM TUCKER/METRO

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
The more others try to make you change your mind about something the more you must refuse to be moved. You know what is right and what is wrong, so make your own decision and stick to it.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
There is no point getting worked up over something you can't do much about. You may not be able to change things on a social or political level however you can change things on a personal level.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Something you have been worrying about for quite a while will fade in significance today and that's good. But has the cause of the worry actually gone? You need to find out.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
If someone you have feelings for seems unresponsive today don't think it means you are drifting apart. Most likely they just need to spend some time alone to think things through.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You may want to be friends with everyone but you need to be discerning. There are some people who you will never get along with because you are on different emotional and intellectual levels.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Others will be generous with you if you are generous with them. Let friends and colleagues know you are willing to work alongside them. Teamwork is essential now, in all areas.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
There may be a thousand and one things you want to do today but Jupiter, planet of success but also excess, warns you must not to take on too much. Ask loved ones nicely to do more things for you.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Some of what you hear over the next 24 hours may be less than complimentary but it is of no real importance, so don't let it upset your equilibrium.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You may hear something about your money situation that brings a smile to your face today but don't be too hasty. There is a chance you are being misled, so don't go on a spending spree.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Something you have been working on for some time needs to be left alone for a while. You have got so involved with it that other areas of your life are being neglected.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
There is no point getting annoyed about things beyond your control – you know that already. So why are you allowing what is a minor event to cause major shockwaves in your life? Get over it – now.

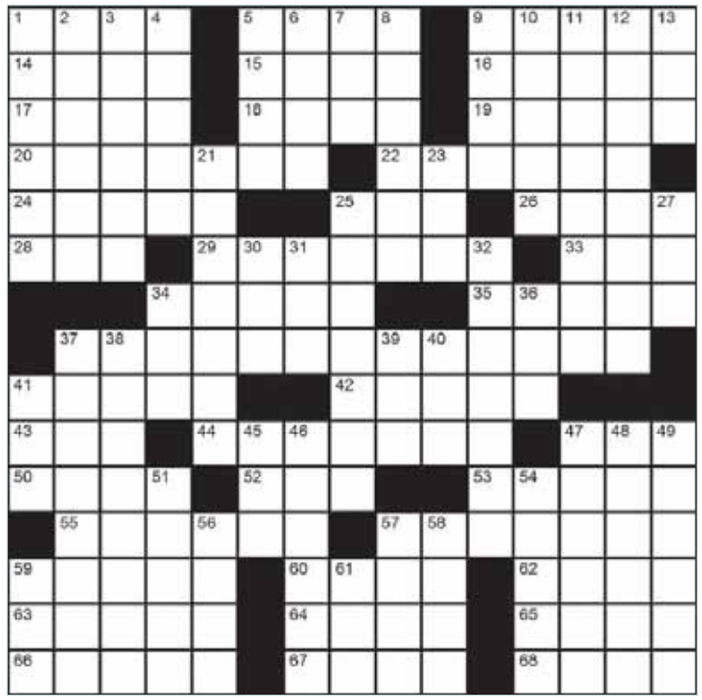
♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You have some important personal issues to deal with, so let your friends know they may be seeing less of you for a while. Get your emotional life in order, then go and have fun.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

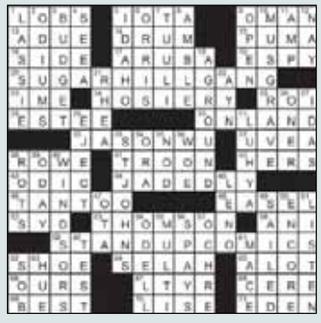
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Star__ Tuna
5. Kitschy
9. Kate __ (Purse designer)
14. Quebec: Saint-Louis-du-__! __!
15. Actress Jessica
16. "__ __ be true?"
17. Prefix to 'culture'
18. Stuff
19. Barter
20. Northwestern Ont. town, Fort __
22. Some Honda cars
24. Fashion: Oscar de la __
25. Bird beak
26. Cries
28. "Rat!"
29. Informer, to inmates
33. Pecan, for one
34. "__, __!" (Laura's catchphrase on "The Dick Van Dyke Show")
35. Peter, in Spain
37. 01/04: 3 wds.
41. Decrease
42. "That's just great."
43. Evita's land, for short
44. One of the three 'Rs' in green living
47. "Law & Order: _ _ _"
50. Alone
52. Ums, etc.
53. Bits
55. The Arctic __
57. Canadian interior designer Ms. Olson
59. Play hockey, also do this
60. "It's such ___!" (I'm so happy!)
62. ___ ___ (As per the broadcast of TV shows)
63. Eva __, Madonna's "Evita" (1996) role
64. Bugs Bunny, e.g.
65. "_ ___ It Bad": Tune by Usher
66. Toronto: CN Tower's locale, 301 __ Street West
67. Edmonton's CFL team's website, __.com
68. "Can you give ___ hints at all?" (I need help guessing!)

Down
1. Egypt's second largest pyramid
2. "My sentiments exactly.": 2 wds.
3. Reduced
4. Contaminate
5. Coop
6. Beers
7. Academic letters
8. Purolator delivery
9. Item on Eugene Levy's resume
10. Ms. Hilton
11. 1997 snake horror movie
12. Alberta town
13. Parisian season
21. Store job
23. There: Latin
25. "It's __ business but my own!"
27. Pou __ (Vantage point)
30. Li'l old MTV show
31. "That hurts!", comics-style
32. Beatles manager Brian
34. Food fragment
36. Mr. Asner's
37. Infomercial exercise device: 2 wds.
38. Michel __: "Rain-showers" Montreal-born musician
39. Folklore creature
40. West Coast basketball team [acronym]
41. Some batteries
45. Fitting-here fish
46. Produce
47. Tightwad
48. Quebec pastry brand
49. k-os hit: "Man I __ __ Be"
51. British songstress Beth
54. Extreme execration
56. Rapper 50
57. Chef
58. Writer Ms. Rand's
59. Sunscreen no.
61. __ Louis (Popular cakes-in-a-box product by #48-Down)

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	4	7	3		9			8
	9	8						4
3			7					
9	1				8			
	6	5				1	2	
			6				9	5
					5			6
5						3	7	
4			1		7	2	5	

Yesterday's Sudoku

1	3	9	8	4	5	6	7	2
4	8	6	2	1	7	3	9	5
5	2	7	3	6	9	4	8	1
7	4	1	6	2	8	9	5	3
2	5	3	4	9	1	8	6	7
9	6	8	7	5	3	1	2	4
8	7	2	1	3	6	5	4	9
3	9	4	5	8	2	7	1	6
6	1	5	9	7	4	2	3	8

Today
11°/5°
Sunny
Wednesday
11°/7°
Mainly sunny
Know what the weather will be 14 days from now.
Check the 14 day trend.
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